GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1366
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
STEM RUST FUNGAL DISEASE
Nikhil Kumar Shri ;Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) has formed a special team to survey and monitor the wheat crop in parts of the country to prevent any occurrence of the stem rust fungal disease in wheat which has rapidly spread in many African Countries and beyond;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the special team;

(c) whether the ICAR has further taken any action to protect wheat from such diseases in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) formed a special team to survey and monitor the summer crop of wheat (off season crop) in the first week of August 2008. The team traveled extensively during August 2008 to monitor the presence of different diseases of wheat crop covering the route from Shimla to summer nursery at Dalang Maidan in Lahul and Spiti valley of Himachal Pradesh through Tabo, Kaza and Kunzum Pass. No trace of stem rust race Ug 99 was found in the wheat crop during this survey.

(c) & (d): So far, Ug 99 race of stem rust of wheat has not been reported in India. The ICAR has taken proactive steps and arranged screening of newly released Indian wheat varieties as well varieties in pipe line against Ug 99 race of stem rust under epiphytotic conditions of disease in Kenya during last two crop seasons and identified resistant varieties. Few of them are: UP 2338, Kundan, HD 2781, HI 1500, GW 273, GW 322, MP 4010, HW 1085, HUW 510, MACS 2846, HI 8498 and Raj 4120.